

- {54} Fishing lure**

(57) A fishing lure in the shape of a facsimile fish having a flexible tail portion 12 at the rear end of which is attached a baffle plate 20, the baffle plate being curved so that the upper portion of the baffle plate leans forward more than the lower portion whereby the tail portion is generally maintained in a horizontal disposition without an overall upward or downward movement.



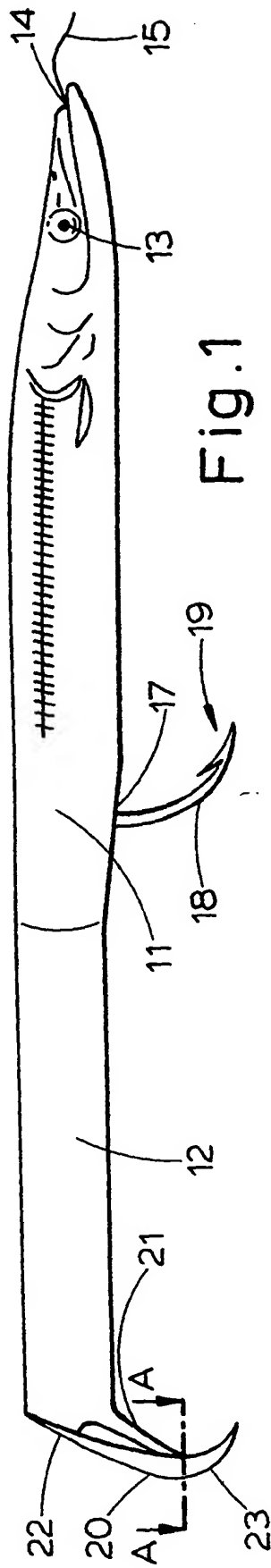


Fig. 1

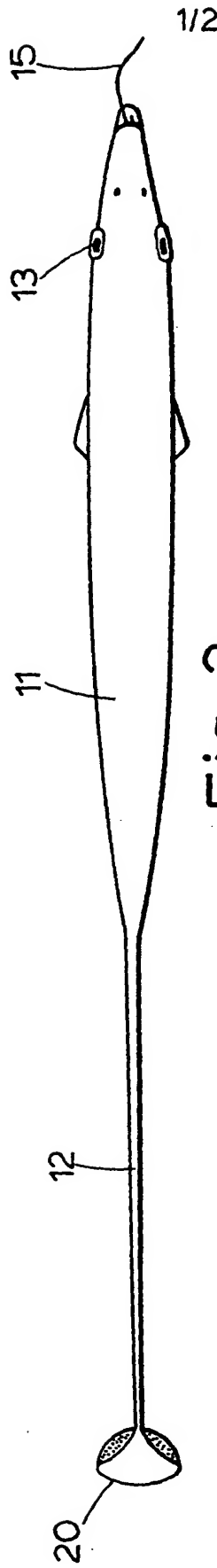


Fig. 2

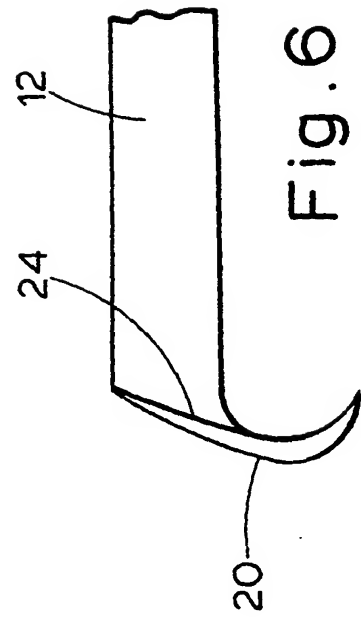


Fig. 6



Fig. 5

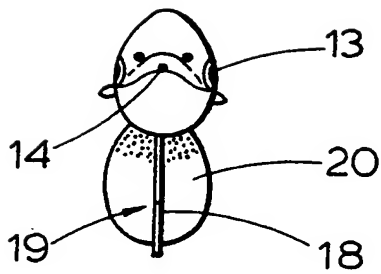


Fig. 3

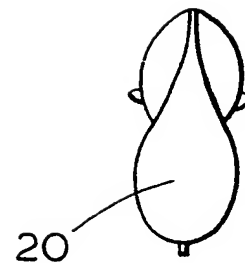


Fig. 4

SPECIFICATION

Fishing lure

5 The present invention relates to fishing lures. Fishing lures are devices placed adjacent the hook on the end of a fishing line for attracting fish towards the hook. Many forms of lure are known. In many cases shiny pieces of metal are used, in other cases coloured solids are used, in so called fly fishing, feathers or other light materials are tied, so as to resemble a fly, and in some instances, a fishing lure forming a facsimile fish on which the fish to be caught might feed is provided.

15 The present invention relates to fishing lures of the last mentioned type.

Such fishing lures are known made of flexible plastics material with a hook having its shank buried within the body of the fish and the line attached to the eye of the hook and protruding from the lure. Conventionally, the barbed section of the hook protrudes from the belly of the fish. There is often provided a cavity within the body of the fish in which the shank portion of the hook is situated.

25 The lure generally has a tail portion of relatively flexible plastics material which may wriggle in the water and this wriggling action is enhanced by the provision of a transverse baffle plate at the rear end of the tail. Such a baffle plate is illustrated, for example, in the applicant's U.S. patent 4044492 and applicant's copending British patent application 768/76.

Such fishing lures have been extremely successful as is well known in the angling world but there is a tendency for the baffle plate to lift the flexible tail portion of the fishing lure so as to cause it to appear unnatural and in order to provide a desired wriggling action, a fairly large baffle plate tail has been required. This causes problems in packing the fishing lure.

40 The present invention provides a fishing lure with an improved baffle plate tail.

The present invention provides a fishing lure of flexible material in the shape of a facsimile fish comprising a body portion and a tail portion, the tail portion extending, in use, generally horizontally rearwardly of the body portion, and being of generally thinner cross section than the body portion, the tail portion carrying at its end a transverse baffle plate, the transverse baffle plate being shaped such that in vertical axial section the upper part of the plate leans forwards more than the lower part.

Preferably the lower part of the baffle plate is at least vertical and more preferably leans backwards.

The shape and size of the baffle plate is preferably arranged such that the net effect of the baffle plate is to produce neither upward nor downward movement as water flows past the baffle plate but simply to provide a side to side motion or a corkscrewing motion of the tail.

60 With such an arrangement it has been found that the effectiveness of the lure is increased and the Furthermore, the baffle plate may be smaller than

hitherto to give the same degree of wriggling which renders the packing of the lure simpler.

65 The baffle plate may be attached to the tail by means of a single join extending generally adjacent the top of the tail to the bottom of the tail or may be attached thereto at two spaced points whereby to allow free flow of water across the baffle plate.

70 Preferred arrangements of the invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a first example of fishing lure according to the invention,

75 Figure 2 is a plan of the fishing lure of Figure 1, Figure 3 is a front view of the fishing lure of Figure 1,

Figure 4 is a rear view of the fishing lure of Figure 1,

80 Figure 5 is a section on line A-A of Figure 1, and, Figure 6 is a side elevation of the tail portion of an alternative arrangement of fishing lure according to the invention.

Referring to Figures 1 to 5, there is shown a fishing lure made of flexible plastics material in the shape of a facsimile fish comprising a body portion 11 and a tail portion 12. The body portion includes eyes 13 and a first aperture in the form of a mouth 14, the mouth 14 communicating with an interior chamber (not shown) from which protrudes a fishing line 15. In the belly of the body portion 11 is provided a second rectangular section aperture 17 from which protrudes a barbed portion 18 of a hook member 19.

The tail portion 12 is of thinner transverse dimension so as to render it flexible particularly in a horizontal direction and carries at its rear end a baffle plate 20. The baffle plate 20 is attached at its upper part 22 to the tail portion 12 and a finger 21 extends downwardly from the tail portion 12 to connect with the bottom part 23 of the baffle plate 20.

Figure 1 shows the fishing lure in its normal orientation. As is clear the upper part 22 of the baffle plate 20 leans forward, that is, the upper-most portion of the upper part 22 is further towards the front of the lure than the middle of the baffle plate 20. This is similar to the prior patents referred to above and tends to force water flowing past the fishing lure downwardly and hence to force the baffle plate 20 upwardly. As mentioned before, whilst effective this tends to make the lure a little less natural than is desired. In the present invention the baffle plate 20 is curved in vertical axial section so that the bottom part 23 leans backwardly, that is, the middle of the baffle plate 20 is disposed rearwardly of the lower most portion of the lower part 23.

As will be seen in effect this produces a spoon shaped baffle plate 20 and the effect of this is that the upper portion 22 of the baffle plate 20 tends to lift the tail where as the lower portion 23 of the baffle plate tends to lower the tail and these two effects cancel out whereby the tail is not urged consistently upwardly or downwardly.

Because of the fact that the baffle plate extends across the direction of water flow past the lure th

baffle plate 20 tends to wag the tail portion 12 from side to side and to spin it about its axis so that there is both a wriggling and rotational movement of the tail portion.

- 5 Movement of the water across the baffle plate 20 is not obstructed since the baffle plate 20 is secured to the tail portion 12 at spaced upper and lower points.

- 10 In the arrangement illustrated in Figure 6 the baffle plate 20 is simply secured to the tail portion by means of a simple vertical running joint 24 rather than at the two spaced points shown in Figure 1.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing examples.

CLAIMS

- 15 1. A fishing lure of flexible material in the shape of a facsimile fish comprising a body portion and a tail portion, the tail portion extending, in use, generally horizontally rearwardly of the body portion, and being of generally thinner cross section than the
- 20 body portion, the tail portion carrying at its end a transverse baffle plate shaped such that in vertical axial section the upper part of the plate leans forward more than the lower part.
- 25 2. A fishing lure as claimed in claim 1 in which the lower part of the baffle plate is vertical.
3. A fishing lure as claimed in claim 1 in which the lower part of the baffle plate leans backwards.
4. A fishing lure as claimed in claim 1 or 3 in which the shape and size of the baffle plate is
- 30 arranged such that the net effect of the baffle plate is to produce neither upward nor downward movement as water flows past the baffle plate but provides a side to side motion or a corkscrewing motion of the tail.
- 35 5. A fishing lure as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 in which the baffle plate is attached to the tail by means of a single joint extending from generally adjacent the top of the tail to the bottom of the tail.
- 40 6. A fishing lure as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 in which the baffle plate is attached to the tail at two spaced points whereby to allow the free flow of water across the baffle plate.
7. A fishing lure as claimed in claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to
- 45 Figures 1 to 5 of the accompanying drawings or as modified according to Figure 6.